

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated October 26, 2007. In the Office Action, the Patent Office objected to Claims 53-55 under 37 CFR §1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to limit the subject matter of the independent claim. Further, the Patent Office rejected Claims 30, 31, 34, 36, 38, 39, 43-45, 47, 48 and 55 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement. Still further, the Patent Office rejected Claims 30, 32-34, 37, 41, 44-51 and 53-55 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Moreover, the Patent Office rejected Claims 30-48 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0071902 to *Santelli* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,248,342 to *Trogolo et al.* and U.S. Patent No. 6,179,141 to *Nakamura* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,274,232 to *Otten et al.*; and rejected Claims 49-51 and 53-55 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Santelli* in view of *Trogolo et al.* and *Nakamura* and further in view of *Otten et al.* and even further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,921,062 to *Weder*.

By the present Amendment, Applicants amended Claims 31, 34, 46, 49, 50 and 53-55. Applicants submit that the amendments to the claims overcome the objections and the rejections by the Patent Office and places the application in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

In the alternative, Applicants submit the amendments to the claims place the application in condition for Appeal and should, therefore, also be entered for that reason. Also, Applicants' Agent Aaron Morrow discussed filing this amendment to the claims with respect to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs with Examiner Dennis Cordray by telephone on December 12, 2007. Applicants' Agent Aaron Morrow indicated that the amendments to the claims present rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal and, pursuant to MPEP §714.12 and 37 CFR §1.116, should be entered for that reason. Examiner Cordray indicated that amendments directed toward the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections would not be entered, but stated that amendments directed to presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal will be reviewed.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 31, 34, 46, 49, 50 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs, Applicants respectfully submit that the objections have been overcome by the amendments to the claims. Accordingly, the rejection of Claims

31, 34, 46, 49, 50 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs, have been overcome and should be withdrawn. Notice to that effect is requested.

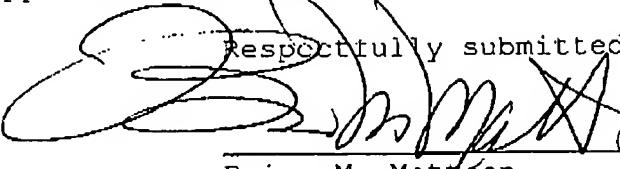
With respect to the objection to Claims 53-55 under 37 CFR §1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to limit the subject matter of the independent claim, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection has been overcome by the amendment to Claims 53-55. Applicants amended Claims 53-55 to depend from independent Claim 51, not Claim 52.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims in the application are in allowable form and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Further, Applicants submit that neither further search nor consideration would be necessitated by entry of this Amendment; therefore, entry of this Amendment is proper and should be effected. Moreover, Applicants submit that the Amendment places the application in condition for Appeal in the event the Patent Office fails to acknowledge that the claims are, in fact, in condition for allowance.

If any outstanding issues remain, Applicants urge the Patent Office to telephone Applicants' attorney so that the same may be resolved and the application expedited to issue. Applicants

request the Patent Office to indicate all claims as allowable and to pass the application to issue.

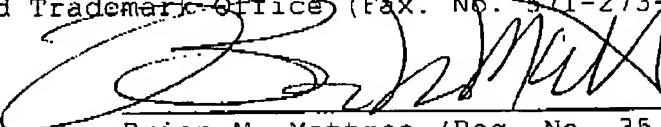
Respectfully submitted,

  
(Reg. No. 35,018)

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**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this **Amendment After Final and Transmittal (in duplicate)** are being transmitted by facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (Fax. No. 571-273-8300) on December 19, 2007.

  
Brian M. Mattson (Reg. No. 35,018)